BENGALURU, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2023 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 16 | Humidity 60% Clear with periodic clouds Sensex 71,336 | Nifty 21,441 | Gold 63,137 | Silver 75,534 | Dollar 83.18 | Euro 91.67 | GBP 105.71

How loss of vegetation, rise in built-up area in lake watersheds cause higher surface runoff leading to frequent flooding

THERE WILL BE FLOOD

Balance between vegetation, built-up areas critical to contain flooding

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KAUSHIK JN

Ulsoor and Bellandur lakes have experienced a surge in open land spaces and a drop in vegetation cover over the last two decades.

According to a land use land cover analysis conducted between 2003 and 2021 by Hyderabad-based researchers, Ulsoor and Bellandur watersheds lost 16.76% and 18.66% of green cover, respectively. Open areas increased by nearly 50% in Ulsoor and 33.94% in Bellandur waterbodies.

Open areas had increased from 1.24 sq km to 1.84 sq km in Ulsoor and 4.3 sq km to 5.75 sq km in Bellandur.

The analysis simulated flood situations in both watersheds; it showed that striking an equilibrium between areas with vegetation and open lands or built-up areas is essential to contain flood situations in Bengaluru.

"While the built-up area in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"Even the minor change in built up area - an increase of 0.02 sq km - led to a higher risk of flooding — BN Keerthi Naidu, co-author of study

Urban pedal stats

CV Raman Nagar tops cycling destinations followed by Brookfield, Ashok Nagar, Bellandur and Kadubeesanahalli

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In a recent survey conducted by Bengaluru bicycle mayor Sathya Sankaran, key cycling destinations in the city were identified. The survey shed light on the pressing need for enhanced cycle infrastructure and safer roads in these areas. The two-month survey, supported by data from over 2,000 cyclists using the altmo platform, showcased the popularity of cycling in various localities.

According to the findings, CV Raman Nagar emerged as the top cycling destination, with 14% of cyclists choosing this area for their trips. Following closely behind were Brookfield (12%), Ashok Nagar (9%), Bellandur (9%), and Kadubeesanahalli (9%).

Other notable destinations included Adugodi (7%), Koramangala (6%), Kaikondrahalli (4%), Electronic City (3%), Nagarthpet (2%), and other locations combined (25%).

Bicycle mayor Sankaran emphasised the significance of the findings: "The data highlights the need for strategic infrastructure development in these areas. By focussing on providing cycle tracks and improving overall cycling infrastructure, we can encourage more people to embrace cycling as a viable mode of transportation."

The survey, conducted through the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Hindustani raag

Don't miss a wonderful chance to attend a Hindustani music concert this week. 'Echoes of Tradition'—Agra Gharana Treasures features Manohar Patwardhan and Nishant Panicker. Entry is free for all, but on a first-come, first-served basis, and also via RSVP on the BIC site. For contact: www.bangaloreinternationalcentre.org.
Where: Bangalore International Centre, #6, 4th Main Road, Domlur 2nd Stage
When: Thursday, December 28; 7–8:30 pm

02 Comic star

The Indian Institute of Cartoonists is all set to organise a unique exhibition, showcasing some of the old, new, and rare cartoons and photographs that will be featured in the second edition of IIC magazine. It includes the works of RK Laxman, Shankar Pillai, Abu Abraham, Paul Fernades, Hemant Morparia, and more. The first issue of the magazine was launched last year as part of the 15th anniversary of the Indian Cartoon Gallery.
Where: The Indian Cartoon Gallery
When: January 6, 2024

03 Odissi steps

Renowned Odissi dancer Madhulita Mohapatra and her troupe, the Nrityantar Dance Ensemble, are all set to present their captivating Odissi dance production. The performance titled 'Colours of Krishna' is part of the Margazhi Bengaluru by Medai. Mohapatra is known for her inventive choreographic skills and her adeptness to keep her audiences engaged. **Where: Medai-The Stage Bengaluru, Koramangala 5th Block;**
When: December 25 to 29

Grave issue

Graveyards and crematorium workers staged a protest as they have not been paid wages for years; they gheraoed BBMP chief commissioner Tushar Giri Nath's office in Bengaluru on Tuesday

No fleecing, there may be cap on covid test price

Private hospitals are accused of taking advantage of patients by overcharging for covid testing; state government considers setting price limits if necessary

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With the surge in covid cases, there is also a surge in covid testing as well. However, many are forced to pay a higher price for covid testing at a private facility. Hence, the health department is now planning to cap the testing price. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said, "While covid testing is free at government hospitals, there is a need to put a cap on testing prices at private hospitals, where many have alleged that private facilities were exploiting patients in the name of covid testing. Hence, for testing pricing, we have formed a committee that will provide a report in two days and will fix a price for covid testing that needs to be followed in all private hospitals and diagnostics."

Adding to this, Medical Education Minister Dr Sharan Prakash Patil said that there are allegations that sanitisers, PPE kits, masks, or other medicines are being sold for a higher price. "So, if the need arises, we will step in and bring in rules, and this may also include the treatment for private hospitals. However, as of now, the situation has not warranted us to step into such a challenge. If necessary, we will do so," he said.

Home isolation

Following a covid sub-committee meeting, Rao stated, "Karnataka has 436 active cases as of Tuesday. Only Karnataka and Kerala are increasing testing, and this is the reason why we are seeing more covid cases here. Out of the 436 active cases, 400 are in home isolation, with the remaining 36 in hospitals—29 in general beds and only seven in ICU. 400 primary and secondary contacts are in home isolation. Our doctors will track them regularly, and even those who are in the hospital will be monitored regularly."

Following a covid sub-committee meeting, the health minister said that Karnataka has 436 active cases as of Tuesday

> **"While covid testing is free at government hospitals, there's a need to put a cap on testing prices at private hospitals**
> – Dinesh Gundu Rao

Currently, there are ICU beds at taluk or district levels, especially for oxygen. Oxygen PSA plants and liquid medical oxygen will be made available at all taluk or district levels. At some places, licences are required, and hence officials have been told to obtain the requisite licences.

Preventive dose for 30k people

On booster doses, Rao mentioned, "Preventive vaccines will be made available only for those who have taken the first or second dose. We will take 30,000 Corbevax vaccines, as only these are available. As Covishield or Covaxin are not available, we are going for Corbevax, but we have been told by experts that those who have taken Covaxin or Covishield as the first two doses can take Corbevax as a booster dose. We will have to procure this from the centre.``

Dedicated covid wards

As a covid precaution, covid-dedicated wards will be set up at Victoria (H Block), Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases, and district hospitals; these will be used for covid isolation. "We will do a death audit; so far, seven have died. On reasons for their deaths, the technical evaluation committee has evaluated that all the deceased had comorbidities, and one of them was an alcoholic," Rao said.

No fresh guidelines

After the Covid Technical Advisory Committee meeting, Rao said, "No fresh guidelines were issued, but the earlier guidelines advising everyone to wear masks remain. For those who are over 60, it is advisable to always wear masks. For those who have comorbidities, always wear masks."

Those who have contracted covid have to stay in home isolation for a week. The government will issue guidelines stating that employees affected by covid should be given casual leaves for mandatory home isolation, he said. "Overall, I want to say that there is nothing to panic about. Experts are saying that there is no high risk for JN.1," he added.

Party, but better follow these rules

Police announce stringent measures for New Year celebrations; women's safety is number one priority

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The Bengaluru police have finally come out with the much-anticipated New Year guidelines. On Tuesday, the Bengaluru Commissioner announced stringent measures for New Year celebrations, prioritising the public's, women's, and children's safety.

And for the first time ever, the MG Road metro will be closed from 11 pm to 2 am to prevent stampedes. The police have suggested Trinity and Cubbon Park Metro Stations as alternatives for commuting.

"This decision is taken considering last year's stampede-like situation," said the top cop.

Important locations in the city like MG Road, Brigade Road, St Marks Road, Cubbon Park, Trinity Circle, Phoenix Mall, Koramangala, and Indiranagar 100 Ft Road, hotels, pubs, and clubs will have high police patrolling and security checks to manage crowds.

Around 3,000 police officers, including 10 ACPs and 30 police inspectors, will be assigned to Brigade Road, MG Road, Opera Junction, Richmond Road, and Residency Road.

Women's safety in the city has been a major concern for the past few years, after the 2017 mass molestation on MG Road. The police have said that women's safety islands have been established at various places, with women officers and staff stationed at major locations.

Police kiosks in strategic areas will also address cases of missing children, theft, and emergencies.

Observation towers with binoculars will monitor highly crowded areas. On December 31, vehicular movements will be restricted on Brigade Road, allowing only pedestrian access. Additional CCTV and drone cameras will be installed at key locations for enhanced surveillance on that day.

"Every year, Bengaluru witnesses a vibrant new year, and we are expecting it this time also. People should also be alert, and while enjoying themselves, they should also think rationally and be safe," said the top cop.

For the first time ever, the MG Road metro will be closed from 11 pm to 2 am to prevent stampedes. Police have suggested Trinity and Cubbon Park Metro Stations as alternatives

Home Minister G Parameshwara said, "I have engaged in discussions with officials of all the concerned departments, and they have been instructed to take measures to ensure that no untoward incidents occur in the state during the new year and related celebrations.

Precautionary measures are being implemented not only in the state capital Bengaluru but also in tier-two cities like Mysuru, Belagavi, Hubballi-Dharwad, and Kalaburagi, spanning across the entire state. An advisory will be issued by the police in this regard."

He added that he has already held discussions with officials from various departments, including police, health, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), power, and excise.

Precautions, particularly in crowded places like MG Road and Brigade Road in Bengaluru, where people gather for celebrations, are essential.

The government has crafted an advisory for this purpose, which will be shared by the city police commissioner.

Tightrope walk goes on in Kaggadasapura

Pedestrians in Kaggadasapura are still having to navigate their way through the storm water drain (SWD) construction taking place in the vicinity, despite multiple requests having been made for a temporary walkway. When the project initially began and complaints were raised by nearby residents, the municipal body, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), had promised to build a makeshift walkway in a span of 10 days. However, this is nowhere in sight.

BM had reported on December 7, 'Sudden drain pain leaves citizens hanging on edge', about the abrupt start of SWD bridge construction. The project has led to motorists having to take a 4-km detour provided by the Bangalore Traffic Police through the narrow lanes of Malleshana Palya and Garakamanthana Palya.

Local residents have noted that scores of children use the stretch to reach their schools

V Muthanna, a local leader from the Bengaluru Navanirmana Party (BNP), noted that the Zonal Commissioner had promised to build a makeshift walkway to ensure the safety of pedestrians in a span of 10 days when the issue was first raised. However, this walkway has not been put in place, forcing pedestrians to use the broken stretch to cross over the construction.

Local residents have noted that scores of children use the stretch to reach their schools. They have called on authorities to build a makeshift walkway immediately while working on completing the project as soon as possible.

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Street vendors' chaos: Rest House Road unrest

Concerned about safety, residents and senior citizens on Church Street request BBMP for stricter street vendor regulation and improved garbage control

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Makeshift dosa stall using a LPG cylinder on Church Street; Right- right: mess created around a chaat vendor's stall

Residents and business persons on Rest House Road, Church Street, and surrounding areas are worried about the encroachment of footpaths and roads by unauthorised street vendors. They have been complaining against brazen encroachment of footpaths on Church Street and haphazard parking of vehicles on the Rest House Road at night. They expressed concern over the generation of garbage by unauthorised vendors at night. "The residents, especially senior citizens, cannot afford to go for a walk at night as most of the space on footpaths is occupied by unauthorised street vendors. We are not against street vendors who have a licence from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). We are worried about the influx of unauthorised vendors who are causing a lot of problems. There should be a method to regulate the street vendors," said Sanjay Kumar Pal, president, Residents' Welfare Association Rest House Park Area.

He said some youth are indulging indecent activities on the Rest House Road. "They come here and park their vehicles as per their convenience and start boozing on the road thus causing inconvenience to the residents and pedestrians," he said.

Stating that it is painful to see the accumulated garbage on Church Street, Kintu Singh, a resident of Church Street said that residents cannot get out of their homes or take out their vehicles during the weekends. "I happened to see a person managing a makeshift eatery using an LPG cylinder to make dosas. What will be the fate of people gathered on the Church Street if any untoward incident (cylinder blast) takes place?" Kintu Singh asked.

She said that Church Street would be crowded during the weekends and it would be difficult for people, especially senior citizens, to come out of their homes. "Majority of people in our residential apartment complex are senior citizens. They could not use Church Street during the weekends. Sex workers and transgenders are another problem for us. I wonder how the BBMP authorities are allowing a large number of people on Church Street while the city is logging JN.1 cases. One has to visit Church Street to come to know about empty beer bottles and all types of garbage," she said, adding that she wanted the bloggers, who showcase Church Street, to visit the place in the morning to know the reality.

> **"We are worried about the influx of unauthorised vendors who are causing a lot of problems** – Sanjay Kumar Pal, president, Residents' Welfare Association Rest House Park Area

Demanding the BBMP authorities and traffic police to regulate the street vendors on Church Street, Bramhananda Reddy, vice president, Residents' Welfare Association Resthouse Park Area said that he was disappointed and disgusted to see the accumulated garbage on Church Street. "There is no control over the street vendors on Church Street," he said. Will the residents, especially senior citizens and children, get the much needed relief from unauthorised vendors and garbage menace?

BMTC: Finally rolling with the times – electric buses, tech-forward drivers

With Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses involved in frequent accidents, the transport corporation has finally decided to adopt technology. To begin with, the Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) is being implemented in ten buses to create a safe transport system for the passengers and more awareness for the drivers. An official said, "To effectively control traffic violation and accident cases caused by drivers, 3,000 drivers are being trained in the Traffic Command and Control Centre from December with the cooperation of the police department for safe driving and strict adherence to traffic rules."

As BMTC is shifting to more green mobility, it is procuring electric buses under gross contract carriage. In the current financial year (2023-24), 921 non-AC electric buses manufactured by M/s Tata Motors Smart City Mobility Solutions Ltd. are set to join the Corporation fleet. The buses were flagged off by CM Siddaramaiah on Tuesday.

A BMTC official said, "These 12-metre-long buses with a floor height of 400mm will have a range of 200 km for every single charge. The buses will operate from the following depots: Shanthinagar (Depot-03), KR Puram (D-29), Hennuru (D-10), Deepanjalinagara (D-16), Kannalli (D-35), Peenya (D-22), Jigani (D-27), and Jayanagar (D-04). 'Opportunity Charging' is facilitated at Kempegowda Bus Stand, K R Market, Shivajinagara, Bannerghatta TTMC, BTM Layout, Hebbal, and Bagalagunte bus stands."

The official further explained that these buses will feature a seating capacity of 35, with three cameras in the saloon area and one rear-view camera to assist the driver during reverse manoeuvres. Equipped with a battery capacity of 298 kWh, the buses come with four

LED destination boards with a voice announcement system. Panic buttons are installed for women's safety, and the vehicle is adopted with FDAS (Fire Detection and Alarm System). "Vehicle location tracking is provided, and the buses are facilitated with a kneeling option mechanism along with a wheelchair ramp for easy accessibility by senior citizens, physically challenged persons, and wheelchair passengers. Stop buttons for request stops are also installed. For passenger safety, pneumatic doors will not open while the bus is in motion. Regenerative Braking is adopted in the bus," the official stated. — BMB

Mandatory heart check-up for drivers

Due to a few incidents in the past where drivers experienced heart attacks while driving, fortunately, with no major casualties, BMTC is taking precautionary measures. Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said, "We have entered into a five-year agreement with Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology and Research to conduct heart-related check-ups for employees and officers above 45 years of age. As of November 23, 2023, 8,319 employees have undergone heart health checkups, and the organisation will bear the cost of Rs 99 lakh for this initiative."

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Box fixed

RT Nagar

After a complaint in these columns, about the open electrical box at Mannarayanapalya, BESCOM promptly addressed and resolved the issue on Tuesday.

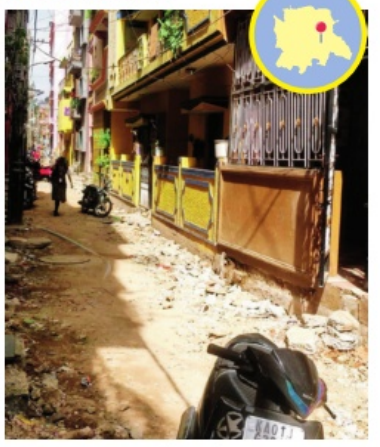
Pavement block

Banashankari

For over a year, the footpath near HDFC Bank, Kathriguppe, Banashankari 3rd stage, remains blocked due to debris, forcing pedestrians onto the busy main Ring Road; BBMP intervention is needed.

Concrete chaos

Neelasandra



BBMP dug up a functional concrete road on a section of 6th Cross, Anepalya, with a promise to lay new concrete but has not returned in 45 days, leaving residents in a pathetic situation.

Tax relief for overseas software development: K'taka HC

The High Court (HC) of Karnataka has set aside three reassessment notices issued by the Income Tax Department against EIT Services India Ltd (formerly Hewlett Packard) for three assessment years. The Income Tax Department had issued the reassessment notices, and the HC ruled that deputing manpower abroad for software development is eligible for tax exemption under Section 10A of the IT Act.

The Commissioner of Income Tax (CIT) in Bengaluru had ordered a re-examination of the claim for deduction under Section 10A/80HHE of the Income Tax Act for the assessment years 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08. The reason given was that "part of the petitioner's profits was related to rendering technical services outside India, which was not eligible for deduction."

The company filed three writ petitions challenging the reassessment notices, which were heard by the bench of Justice S Sunil Dutt Yadav. The HC, in its judgment on December 19, cited a circular issued by the Ministry of Finance in 2013. The circular clarified that "expenditure incurred for services to develop software outside India could be allowed under Section 10A of the IT Act if deputation is for the development of software."

The HC, in its judgment, stated, "It is clear that the clarification stipulates that the benefits under Section 10A deductions can be availed if there exists a direct and intimate nexus or connection between the development of software abroad and the eligible units set up in India."

The HC emphasised that in this case, the clarification issued in the circular was relevant.

Citing a circular, the HC emphasised that deputing technical manpower abroad doesn't hinder Section 10A exemption benefits under the IT Act

"When the present facts are looked into, it is clear that the deductions sought for could fall within the scope of Section 10A of the IT Act, which, however, is a determination to be made on merits while this court is only considering whether the Assessing Officer has applied his mind to the issue of deduction under Section 10A of the IT Act and whether the assessed has made a true and full disclosure of relevant primary facts. In order to come to a conclusion regarding the above two aspects, the circular would throw some light, and it is in such a context that the circular could be referred to," the HC said.

The High Court set aside three

reassessment notices, stating that the Assessing Officer's conclusions for the years 2005-2006 to 2007-2008, viewed in light of a circular, support upholding Section 10A deduction under the IT Act. The judgment indicated that resorting to a review through reassessment would be futile.

Miller's Road footpath in a 'concrete' jungle mess

Built under 'Smart City' project, another prominent footpath faces decay, with construction debris posing hazards, attracting illegal activities, and drawing attention to civic negligence

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The footpath conditions on Miller's Road are deteriorating due to the presence of construction debris

Built a couple of years ago as part of the 'Smart City' project, the condition of the footpath on Miller's Road extension is fast deteriorating. Apart from the age-old issues such as tiles coming loose and optic fibre cables hanging dangerously over pedestrians, the latest is construction material for a commercial building dumped on the footpath.

Excavated soil piled up to nearly two feet in height, stacked cement blocks, stone sheets, and rubble flowing onto the main road are some common sights on the pedestrian way here. A nearly 150-metre stretch of the walkway has been completely blocked, forcing walkers to get down on the road and risk their lives.

"Every kind of construction debris such as excavated soil, gravel, and bricks can be seen dumped on pavement, shrinking the space to zero on the already congested walkway. The building was half constructed during the pandemic. Recently they have taken up construction and have dumped building debris on the pavement. The Smart City pavement has been destroyed and landscaping is obliterated, so much so that people cannot even walk. There are mounds of stones and mud along with huge granite slabs even on the main road. How can a private individual be allowed to destroy public property like this?," asked an upset resident of the area.

According to commuters, the pavement has been in this state since early November. To add to the inconvenience of pedestrians, the encroached portion has also become a hub of illegal activities and is being used as a spot for open urination. Locals allege while the issue was brought to the notice of the area MLA, no action has been taken.

"Since the pavement has not been used for some time, people are using the space as a giant urinal. It has also become a regular alcohol joint. Beer bottles can be seen strewn around. We have been trying to get in touch with the local MLA, but he has been unapproachable since he got into power. A person from the MLA office informed the locals that while the issue was taken up with the owner of the building, they came up with some excuse and refused to clear the pavement area. There is no accountability," lamented another resident.

Locals also highlighted other issues plaguing the 'Smart City' stretch.

"The pavement tiles have come loose and it has been so for a few months now. The situation is more or less similar on other Smart City Stretches such as Infantry Road and Commercial Street. I have witnessed people tripping over the loose tiles. This happened within months of the roads being completed. Cables are hanging low on the road and we have been sharing images of these issues with the authorities concerned," said Susan P, another resident.

According to officials from Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), none of the Smart City roads have been handed over to BBMP so far. Thus, any maintenance work on these stretches is the responsibility of Bengaluru Smart City Limited (BSCL).

> **"The situation is more or less similar on other Smart City Stretches such as Infantry Road and Commercial Street**
>
> —Susan P, resident

"The defect-liability period is still not over and any maintenance issue on BSCL roads is their responsibility. None of the roads have been handed over to BBMP and thus no action can be taken from our side," said the official.

When Bangalore Mirror reached out to Rizwaan Arshad, MLA of Shivaji Nagar constituency, he said, "I am not aware of the issue. However, I will direct the person concerned to look into this encroachment issue and ensure that the pavement is available for pedestrians."

IN BRIEF

Tragic car fire claims life near Nelamangala

On Tuesday, in a horrifying incident on the outskirts of Bengaluru near Nelamangala, a man, identified as Anil Kumar from Jalahalli, lost his life in a car fire. The vehicle was engulfed in flames, leading to a fatal incident. According to eyewitnesses, despite attempts by onlookers to rescue the driver, Anil Kumar, who was alone in the car, the intense fire and a CNG cylinder explosion proved fatal. Tragically, the driver, restrained by a seat belt, was unable to escape the vehicle in time.

Emergency services, including fire personnel and Nelamangala Traffic Police, promptly responded to the scene. The fire not only claimed the life of Anil Kumar but also rendered the car completely destroyed. The aftermath disrupted traffic on National Highway 4 temporarily. Subsequently, Nelamangala Police managed the situation by removing the vehicle and transferring the deceased's body to the hospital. —BMB

Police apprehend gang of jewel thieves

In a recent operation, the Whitefield Police successfully apprehended a gang specialising in jewellery theft. Law enforcement managed to seize jewellery valued at Rs 6.5 lakh and 30 mobile phones from three suspects. Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda disclosed that two of the arrested individuals had prior criminal records.

Three apprehended suspects, residents of Begur and Hulimavu, include two individuals with previous criminal backgrounds; two more linked suspects are at large, stated the Police Commissioner.

Begur Police swiftly arrest a man for brutally murdering colleague at a fabrication shop. The accused disposed of the victim's body in a drainage; investigations ongoing. —BMB

Ready to move in? Oh, yes

Real-estate figures show most people in city, that is a neat 88% of buyers, preferred ready-to-move-in properties this year; Hebbal is property hotspot

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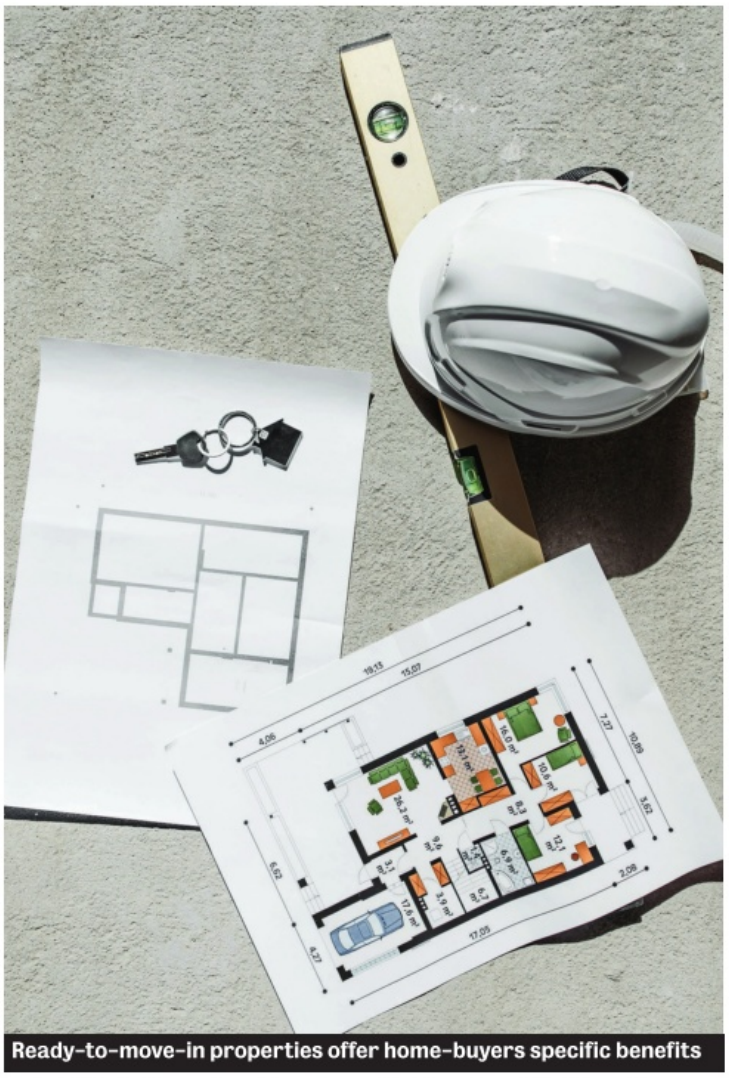
With its cosmopolitan lifestyle, educational institutions, and a thriving startup ecosystem, the rental yield of Bengaluru has gone up substantially, making it a good investment destination. This year the real estate sector saw a boost with ready to move in properties being a popular choice in the city.

Ready-to-move-in (RTMI) properties are in demand for several reasons. They provide immediate occupancy; buyers can physically inspect the property before purchasing, reducing the risk of unpleasant surprises. The convenience of not having to wait for construction completion and the ability to avoid the hassle of coordinating move-in timings contribute to the popularity of ready-to-move-in properties.

In the NoBroker Annual Real Estate Report 2023, Bengaluru registered a maximum demand for RTMI properties. Over, 88% chose for RTMI and 5% opted for under construction and the rest 7% opted for plots. While Chennai reported 84% of demand for RTMI, and Delhi at 78% , Hyderabad with 84% , Pune at 81% and Mumbai also showed high demand with 90% for RTMI properties.

“Reasons for RTMI property preference include inability of buyers to bear both rent and EMI and increase in interest rates –Anil RG, Concorde



Ready-to-move-in properties offer home-buyers specific benefits

Anil RG, Managing Director, Concorde said, “The demand for RTMI properties will always be high compared to under construction projects. Awareness of property as an asset class especially after Covid; increase in rental cost matching EMI in some cases surpassing it; inability of property buyers to bear both rent and EMI and increases in interest rates adding to the capital cost of the home buyer are factors for the demand for RTMI properties.”

2023 saw a high demand for the real estate sector in North Bengaluru. “North Bengaluru has undergone a remarkable transformation, emerging as a thriving hub of real estate development. The area has experienced significant growth, thanks to substantial government initiatives aimed at fostering its overall development. The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) has played a pivotal role, contributing to the establishment and growth of industrial zones, particularly in Bagalur,” said Saurabh Garg, Co-founder & Chief Business Officer, NoBroker.com.

Top buyer localities of 2023

- Sarjapur Road
- Whitefield
- Hebbal
- Hennur – Airport Road
- Varthur

According to Anil, North Bengaluru, the north suburb has well-developed social infrastructure. “Connectivity vastly improved through STRR and PRR. And lastly, the growth rate of North Bengaluru was always high with its business infrastructure,” he said.

Hebbal is hub

According to the statistics the best performing micro markets in the year 2023 were Hebbal at 27%, followed by Varthur at 24%, Bellandur with 20%, Electronic City phase 1 at 20% and Nelamangala with 19%. Micro markets in real estate refer to small, localized areas within a larger real estate market that share common characteristics and trends.

Some builders have seen locations such as Hoskote, Mallur, Narsapura, Yelahanka, Vidyaranyapura, Sarjapur Road, E City phase 2, Sarjapur Hosa Road as well as the best performing micro markets.

Garg said, “Hebbal, once a quiet neighbourhood, has evolved into a realty hotspot, serving as a gateway to the city and benefiting from its proximity to the airport.”

IN BRIEF

Fervent plea for Vrishabhavathi River revival

The volunteers of Bengaluru Hudugaru and Revival Heritage Hub on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot urging him to direct the authorities concerned to develop Vrishabhavathi River on the lines of Namami Ganga project.

“We have submitted a memorandum to the Governor who advised us to meet the authorities concerned for the development of Vrishabhavathi River. The Governor has assured us that he would also advise the authorities to look into it,” said Vinod Kartavya of Bengaluru Hudugaru.

He said the volunteers have been organising walkathons since the last three months to create awareness among the public on the importance of rejuvenation of Vrishabhavathi River. “As of now, Adamya Chetan kitchen, which supplies food for hundreds of students, is using Vrishabhavathi River water for cooking purposes. The river originates at Dodda Basavanna Temple situated in Basavanagudi and river water flows through Adamya Chetana,” said Kartavya, adding that conflict between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu can be avoided if the authorities rejuvenate Vrishabhavathi River.

Rajeev Nrupathunga, chairman and founder of Revival Heritage Hub, told BM it is vital to revive the river. “Vrishabhavathi River originates near Kadu Malleshwara Temple and its water is being used at a dhobi ghat in Malleswaram,” said Nrupathunga. He said lakes along the river are affected due to its pollution. “Most of the sewage treatment plants (STPs) at these lakes are defunct. Polluted water from the river is being used for irrigation in Ramanagar. Many farmers are suffering from illnesses due to polluted water,” he said.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

BM Education

CAMPUS NOTES

The urban-rural divide

Many rural students come to Bengaluru for higher education. However, studying in a city like Bengaluru can be a real challenge. Yet, there are many rural students who make a mark.

Sandeep Kumar, a college professor, said, “Rural students have to overcome a number of hurdles to pursue their educational dreams. From the financial crisis to staying away from home to adjusting to the city lifestyle. The untold struggles of rural students calls for a need for extra support systems and reminds us to be grateful for the blessings.”

Shamita Gowda, who is now currently studying in Bengaluru said, “Growing up in rural areas, they have led a lifestyle completely different from an urban lifestyle. There’s a world of difference in the food choices, social settings, clothes and mindset. When they enter a classroom, they often feel out of place among city grown students.

Many times, they face language challenges, especially in English. They are also ridiculed for the way they speak and for wrong pronunciations. When it happens on a daily basis, they start to doubt themselves and their capabilities. It takes a toll on their energy levels and motivation.” Dinesh K, another student added, “Students here are very outspoken and sometimes lack basic empathy. They make fun of us for the way we speak and dress. However, the professors are extremely helpful as they themselves have come from rural backgrounds.”

A college professor said, “The gap between rural and urban schools is another key issue. Many rural schools fail to provide the same level of experienced faculty and other facilities as urban schools. This hinders progress and also limits their exposure to the world. Despite these challenges, many students show remarkable determination. They truly want to succeed in life and make their village proud. They know the importance of education opening up a wide range of opportunities to prove themselves to the world. They aspire to become the first in their families to graduate from college, seek careers in fields of their choice, and contribute to the development of their communities.”

—Sanjana Rao

Focus on safety as trekker goes missing in Savandurga

Search operation using drones has so far failed to trace man who went missing 48 hours ago

Sridhar.Vivan
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Inset: A rescue mission is on to trace the missing trekker at Savandurga

A 30-year-old man from Uttar Pradesh, Gagan, who works with a private firm in Bengaluru, has been missing for the last 48 hours after going on a trek in Savandurga. Gagan embarked on the trek with a friend on Sunday, but he lost his way during the journey. Upon realising this, his friend descended the hill and informed the officials. Despite the use of drones in the search efforts, there has been no trace of the missing man so far. A missing person complaint has also been filed at the Magadi police station

For many, year-end travel is akin to an annual pilgrimage. However, without proper planning and guidance, these trips can turn into a mishap.

Savandurga is considered to be among one of the more challenging hills to climb. As many trekkers used to get lost here, earlier, the forest department had cordoned off the area so that no one could climb but many continued to do so.

A forest department official said, "A significant number of individuals venture into the hills without prior notice, and it's us who bear the consequences. Numerous instances required extensive day-long searches to rescue people. With the added risk of wild animals in the vicinity, trekking on this hill has become an unsafe choice."

Consequently, there are initiatives in place to control trekking activities on the hill. Yet, trekkers insist that this is not the answer. Many express the view that escaping the stress of Bengaluru's traffic and work through short getaways outside the city is becoming challenging. This is attributed to the actions of a few who flout rules, making several places increasingly inaccessible. Rather than enforcing outright bans, they suggest that the relevant departments consider crowd regulation and provide secure trekking alternatives. This approach not only ensures safety but also has the potential to generate revenue while allowing enthusiasts to continue enjoying trekking experiences.

> **A significant number of individuals venture into the hills without prior notice, and it's us who bear the consequences**
>
> –Forest department official

Horror in the past

In October 2021, a family from KR Puram had visited Savandurga and as they trekked the hill, they were caught in heavy rainfall. The situation became such that the family lost their way back. However, the family dialled 102 helpline number. Braving rainfall, the police went in search of the missing family and rescued them at 1.30 am.

Despite the warning from the police and forest officials, many families and individuals keep venturing into Savandurga hill. In 2016, 11 students who had trekked to Savandurga were lost following heavy rainfall. In the same year, another group of trekkers were assaulted by the locals as they mistook the trekkers to be goat thieves. In 2015, five minors were stuck at Savandurga for more than 16 hours without food and water. These minors were stuck in such a position that they could not move an inch not up nor down. Then a team of two rock-climbing experts and three support staff had to rescue them using head torches, dynamic climbing ropes, bolts, drills expansion boards, harness, hammers, helmets and various other climbing equipment.

In 2012, a 27-year old man fell to his death from Savandurga hill; he had climbed the hill along with four friends. He slipped from the edge of a rock as he was looking down. In 2014, a 24-year-old techie died after falling from Savandurga.

Jayamahal Hotel land no more in 'green belt'

The High Court of Karnataka has held that the reservation of the land on which the Jayamahal Palace Hotel stands as "reserved for the purposes of parks and green spaces," under the Revised Master Plan 2015 in 2007 has lapsed.

Since the acquisition of the land under the RMP was not made within five years, the HC held that the designation had lapsed from the midnight of June 24, 2012.

The property, earlier in the Oobarpad village, Ulsoor Hobli, Bengaluru was designated under new survey numbers of Jayamahal Main Road in Comprehensive Development Plan 2011 (CDP) approved in 1995. It is owned by the heirs of Jyotendra Sinhji Vikramsinhjji, the erstwhile royal family of the Gondal State.

"It is declared that the designation of the land of the petitioners for parks and green spaces, sports/ playgrounds, cemeteries/burial ground in the Revised Master Plan, 2015 is deemed to have lapsed from midnight of 24.06.2012," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said in his judgement on December 15 on a petition filed by Maharani Kumud Kumari and Maharaja Shri Himanshusinhji. The HC said that the acquisition process was not completed in the designated time period leading to the lapse.

"The land of the petitioners having been designated for public use in terms of Clause (c) of subsection (1) of Section 12 of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning (KTCP) Act under the Revised Master Plan which came into effect on 25.06.2007, such designation is deemed to have lapsed from the midnight of 24.06.2012 since no acquisition has been made of the said land in terms of Subsection (1) or Subsection (2) of Section 69 of the KTCP Act," the HC held.

The petition claimed in the CDP of 2011 which was approved in 1995, the aforesaid land was earmarked for usage for residential purposes. But in the RMP 2015 approved in 2007, it was changed and reserved for "purposes of parks and green spaces, sports/playgrounds, cemeteries/burial ground," and classified as a "green belt/ zone." This was challenged before the HC in the petition filed in 2015. The HC gave its judgement recently.

> **HC held designation had lapsed as acquisition of land under RMP was not made within 5 years**

The HC said the reservation "would lapse after a period of five years in terms of Subsection (2) of Section 69 of the KTCP Act, if the same were not acquired within the said period by agreement..." **PTI**

IN BRIEF

Groundwater toxin: K'taka among 24 states to get NGT notice

The National Green Tribunal has issued notices to 24 states, including Karnataka, and four Union Territories in a matter regarding the presence of arsenic and fluoride in groundwater.

The green panel observed that the presence of these metals or chemicals are "very serious" and requires "urgent preventive and protective steps".

The panel was hearing a matter in which it had taken suo motu (on its own) cognisance of a media report that highlighted the presence of arsenic and fluoride beyond permissible limits in groundwater in some pockets of various states and Union Territories.

> **Tribunal notes presence of arsenic, flouride are 'very serious' and requires 'urgent preventive and protective steps'**

The report stated that arsenic was detected in groundwater in parts of 230 districts across 25 states while fluoride was found in some pockets of 469 districts in 27 states, the tribunal noted in a recent order.

A bench of Judicial Member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and Expert Member A Senthil Vel said the Central Ground Water Authority had submitted a report in which it admitted the presence of arsenic and fluoride in the districts and the states.

"It is also admitted that both the chemicals or metals have very serious toxic effects on the human body and health and cause health hazards," the bench said.

It said the Central Ground Water Authority, responsible for regulating groundwater, did not take any independent steps on the grounds that water is a state subject.

But its contention had been rejected by a 1997 Supreme Court verdict and a 2022 tribunal order, the bench said.

"We are surprised that after such a long time, even today, the CGWA (Central Ground Water Authority) has the audacity of shirking away from its own statutory responsibility and obligations and taking such flimsy grounds which have already been rejected by the apex court itself," it said.

The states to which notices were issued are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Meghalaya and Nagaland.

Notices were also issued to the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Delhi and Puducherry. **PTI**

Urban flooding: What Ulsoor, Bellandur watersheds suggest

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

KAUSHIK JN

Ulsoor watershed nearly remained the same between 2003 and 2021 (an increase of 0.02 sq km), even the minor change led to a higher risk of flooding. Similarly, an increase in the open land and a decline in vegetation in Bellandur resulted in higher runoff accumulated in a flood event," said BN Keerthi Naidu, the co-author of the study.

The researchers said the soil in Bengaluru mostly consists of silt and clay and has a significantly lower infiltration rate. Hence, open lands behave similarly to built-up areas in case of rainfall and contribute to runoff. So, large pockets of open land with no vegetation can also lead to a rise in flooding. The study noted that runoff water accumulated in a flood event increased with a minor change in the built-up areas in case of Ulsoor watershed and went up due to loss of vegetation in the Bellandur watershed.

"Ulsoor in the city's centre is saturated with built-up areas. Although little increase in such areas was observed between 2003 and 2021, more vegetation was lost to create open lands. When changing flood responses were simulated and related to the changing land cover, the built-up areas in Ulsoor showed a higher correlation with an increased amount of runoff," said the researchers.

The study highlighted that Bellandur waterbody is facing a similar scenario as Ulsoor where the built-up areas have marginally increased between 2003 and 2021. But, unlike Ulsoor, when related to the flood responses, loss of vegetation showed a greater impact than the increased built areas. Decreased vegetation and increased open spaces in the watershed resulted in higher surface runoff volume and early occurrences of flood events.

"In Ulsoor watershed, the remaining flood metrics are not impacted by the changes in the LULC. However, vegetation and open land exhibited complementary behaviour towards the flood metrics in the Bellandur watershed, indicating that striking an equilibrium between vegetated and open lands, and built-up areas is essential to contain flood situations," said Naidu.

IISc scientists uncover key mechanism that allows TB to persist in humans for decades

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have uncovered an important mechanism that allows the tuberculosis (TB) bacterium to persist in the human host for decades.

The team, including researchers from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) and Institute For Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (InStem), Bengaluru, found that a single gene involved in the production of iron-sulphur clusters could be crucial for the persistence of the TB bacterium.

TB is caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb), which can be present in the human body for decades without any symptoms.

"Mtb needs humans to survive. In many cases of Mtb infection, the immune system can detect the bug and clear it out," said Mayashree Das, a PhD student at IISc, and first author of the study published in the journal Science Advances.

However, in several asymptomatic individuals, Mtb hides within deep oxygen-limiting pockets of the lung and enters a state of dormancy in which it does not divide and is metabolically inactive, successfully evading the immune system and TB drugs.

"Due to persistence, there is a bacterial reservoir in a subset of the human population at any point which can reactivate and cause infection.

Unless we understand persistence, we will not be able to eradicate TB," said Amit Singh, Associate Professor at IISc and corresponding author of the study. **PTI**

What data from 2,000 urban cyclists reveal

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

altmo platform, tracked the cycling habits of over 2,000 individuals, revealing consistent bicycle traffic at the identified destinations. Sankaran plans to present the data to the government to advocate for targeted investments in cycle infrastructure.

"This is useful for decision-makers; I will be presenting the data to government officials so that we can highlight the need for cycle infrastructure in these places. The idea is to identify areas with more cycle traffic. By focusing on these areas, we can strategically extend infrastructure to major transit points, providing guidance on where to concentrate efforts for maximum impact," he said.

In specific areas like Whitefield, where tech parks attract a significant cycling community, efforts are underway to map the preferred routes of cyclists.

As more and more people have been cycling to tech parks, it is important to provide the right infrastructure to these locations.

"Many techies have been mapping safe routes for cycling and this data will allow us to plan intelligently and make infrastructure investments for maximum returns," he said.

He further noted: "The findings underscore the potential success of cycling infrastructure projects in these high-traffic areas.

As Bengaluru continues to experience growth in cycling enthusiasts, the survey results provide insights for city planners and officials seeking to promote sustainable and healthy transportation alternatives."

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CHANGE OF NAME

I MURALI KRISHNA. S Army No. 2591875W Ex NK(TS) Residing at No. 33, 5th Main, Vinayaka Layout, Whitefield, Bengaluru - 560066 have changed my son name from M. HARJIT to M.B. HARJJIT. vide affidavit dated 26-12-2023 before Notary Mr. ANAND KUMAR. J. Bengaluru

I Ranjith Kumar Billava Ramanna S/o Billava Devupoojary Ramanna R/o No 2817 Jnana Bharathi Main Road Nagarbhavi B'luru-560072 have changed my name to Ranjit Kumar Billava Ramanna vide Affidavit dt: 26/12/2023 before notary Rajashekhar V, B'luru.

I, Prem Kumar D R/o No.888, 1st cross, 1st main, Muneshwara nagar, Bagalgunte, Nagasandra, Bengaluru 560073 have changed my minor son name from Sharu Prem Gowda to Jayan Prem affidavit Dt.26/12/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Vaibhav Chandramani Jha S/O, Chandramani Trivikram Jha R/o 412, Local Squared, Mahadevapura, Bangalore-560048 have changed my name to Vaibhav Jha.

I, Laxmi Devi Narshima Kandula w/o M Rajkishore Reddy R/o 70, Pent House Church Rd, Murugeshpalya Main Rd B'luru 560017 have changed my name to LAKSHMI DEVI MUDIYALA affidavit Dt.26/12/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Manoj Byadarahalli Prakash S/o Prakash Byadarahalli Siddanna R/o No 274 Magadi Main Road Byadarahalli Viswaneedam Post B'luru-560091 have changed my name to Manoja Byadarahalli Prakash vide Affidavit dt: 26/12/2023 before notary Rajashekhar V, B'luru.

I Ayushmita Ayushi Jain, R/O T4, 3rd floor, GCN Enclave, Sai Baba temple road, Marathalli, 560037, Asshiyana, ward 34, Etawah Road, Bhind, M.P-477001, have changed my name to Ayushi Jain

I Tanai Balaji S/O, Balaji Ramdas R/o Apt No 11c Binny Crescent Apts, Benson Cross Road, Benson Town, Bangalore have changed my name to Tanai Bilagali Balaji.

I Mahmood Shariff S/o Abdulla Shariff R/o No: 100/4, 2nd Main 2nd Cross Laljingar, Lakkasandra Bangalore 560030 have changed my name to Mohammed Shariff for all purposes

I Ashwini Billava Balakrishna w/o Ranjit Kumar R/o No 2817 Jnana Bharathi Main Road Nagarbhavi B'luru-560072 have changed my name to Ashwini Ranjit Kumar vide Affidavit dt: 26/12/2023 before notary Rajashekhar V, B'luru.

I, Jyothi W/o H J Ajith R/o M-303, Purva Highlands Apts, Off Kanakapura main road, mallasandra, Thalaghattapura. Bengaluru 560062 have changed my name to JYOTHI JAIN affidavit Dt.26/12/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

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2) ENGLISH TEACHER – High School,(ISC), M.A./M.Phil.(English) B.Ed.
3) ENGLISH TEACHER – High School, M.A. (English) B.Ed.,
4) HISTORY TEACHER – High School, M.A. (History) B.Ed.,
5) GEOGRAPHY TEACHER – High School, M.A./M.Sc. (Geography) B.Ed.,
6) ENGLISH TEACHER – Middle School, B.A.(English) B.Ed.
7) HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY TEACHER – Middle School, B.A. (History & Geography) B.Ed.,
8) JUNIOR SCHOOL TEACHER – Junior School, Graduate with B.Ed.,
9) ART TEACHER – Kindergarten/ Junior School, Graduate with BFA.,
10) PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER- Kindergarten, Graduate with B.P.Ed.,
11) SECRETARY TO PRINCIPAL - Graduate with knowledge of computer. Diploma in Secretarial Course
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I, Pratima Sudhir Khobragade, W/o. Saurabh Rajan Dongre, A1603, Purva Westend, Hosur Rd., Opp. Kudlu Gate, GB Palya, Blr-68, have changed my name to PRATIMA DONGRE vide affidavit Dtd: 25/12/23 before Notary M. Rajendra, Blr.

I, Shivakumar Hanagavadi Sannemane R/a #272, 7th A Main, KCHS Layout, Viswavidalaya po, Bhuvaneshwari nagar 1st Stage, B'lore 56. I have changed my name to Shivakumar Hanagavadi Sannamane. Vide affidavit dated 26-12-23, Sworn before notary N Mahesha B'lore.

I, Vishali Srinath Kumar R/a #08, 1st Cross, Near Best country bus stop, G Ramaiah enclave, Vidyaranyapura, B'lore 97. I have changed my name to Vishali Srinath. Vide affidavit dtd 26-12-23, Sworn before notary N Mahesha B'lore.

I, Lakshmi Narayanan Krishnan S/o Thimmiah Krishnan R/o 168/D, 1st flr, 1st block, 3rd ph, Banashankari 3rd stage, Bengaluru 560085 have changed my name to Narayan Krishnan Affidavit Dt.26/12/2023 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, AKSHAY residing of no. 102, Supreme Signature, 7th main, Kengeri satellite town, B'lore-560060, have changed my name from AKSHAY to AKSHAY KARANURE, sworn before notary Mr. Ravi at B'lore, vide affidavit dt. 20/12/23.

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WORK MODE OFF

Switching off from work has become tougher; here is how to do it

In the hit dystopian TV series Severance, employees at biotech corporation Lumon Industries find it easy to separate work and home life. A computer chip is inserted in their brains to act as a "mind-wipe". They leave all thoughts of home behind while at work, and completely forget about their work when at home.

While the show explores the pitfalls of such a split in consciousness, there's no denying it's a tantalising prospect to be able to "flick the off switch" and forget about work whenever you're not actually supposed to be working.

This is known as "psychological detachment". People who can do it are happier and healthier, and experience less fatigue. But many of us struggle to detach and disconnect mentally from work, particularly when our jobs are demanding and stressful.

It may not be enough simply to be physically away from work, particularly in an era when so many of us work from home. We also have to stop thinking about work when we're not there – whether it's fretting over your to-do list while out at dinner, thinking about your unanswered emails while you're at your daughter's soccer game, or lying in bed pondering what you'll say at tomorrow's board meeting.

The art of detachment

Your choice of activity outside work can be crucial to this process of psychological detachment. To learn more about what strategies are most effective, my research surveyed nurses who were working shifts in hospital emergency departments in 2020, a highly stressful work environment.

My colleagues and I collected data from 166 nurses, using a survey called the Recovery Experience Questionnaire. This included collecting information about the underlying psychological experiences associated with home-time activities, such as feeling relaxed while reading a book or going for a walk.

Importantly, our survey results also showed nurses who were better able to forget about work had less fatigue and better physical and mental health.

Our results identified three key strategies that helped our survey participants to reduce fatigue and mentally recover from work:

- exercise
- spending time with family and friends
- leisure pursuits.

The physical benefits of exercise are well known. But exercising – whether it's doing yoga, going for a run or playing netball – also brings mental benefits by encouraging you to focus deeply on what you're doing rather than dwelling on outside thoughts.

Friendship and social connection are also good for our wellbeing. Research suggests people who have plenty of friends and confidants are less likely to die from chronic disease. And one study found people who undertake a difficult task with the help of a friend have fewer abrupt changes in heart rate than those who tackle the task alone.

Deliberately making time to spend with family, friends or pets can help us forget about work at home, and to centre our attention instead on what is important to us besides work.

Many of the nurses in our study reduced the effects of fatigue during home time by pursuing hobbies and interests such as sewing or gardening. But you shouldn't worry too much about what specific activity you pursue – the main thing is to pick something you find pleasurable and engaging, and which fits comfortably around your existing commitments.

Leave your work at work

Finally, switching off from work also means not letting your work come home with you. Where possible, complete all your daily tasks so these aren't on your mind at home. Unplug from work-related technology by not checking work emails or texts.

Of course, technology and working from home have now made separating work and home even harder. But setting healthy routines can help put mental as well as physical boundaries around your work time – even when your workplace is in the next room.

(By Jane Gifkins, Griffith University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Special care needed for pets in winter: Experts

As winter chill sets in, pet owners need to be extra vigilant about health of their pet dogs and cats, say the veterinarians.

Experts warned that frequent yawning, changes in behaviour like more meows or barks and arthritis flare ups could be signs of underlying health issues in pets during the colder months.

Fungal infections and viral diseases are also more common this time of the year.

Dr Vikas Singh, owner of a private veterinary clinic in Lucknow, said: "Just like humans, pets also need special care as seasons change, especially older animals. Providing them warm bedding, jackets, a warm environment and a proper diet with warm food and water is crucial."

Dr Singh also emphasised the importance of choosing the right pet based on one's living situation.

"Exotic pets including certain dog breeds require specific habitat and facilities that many people simply cannot afford. Keeping such animals in unsuitable conditions can harm their health seriously," he said.

Discussing stray animals, experts also urged people to provide them food and shelter. "Proper

food and shelter facilities can help reduce encounters between humans and stray dogs, which often attack out of fear or hunger," said Dr N K Verma, another vet.

He also offered tips on dealing with stray dogs that chase vehicles. "The best way to stop a dog chasing your vehicle is to stop the vehicle. Kicking the dog or speeding up can be fatal for the animal as well as the driver/rider," he said.

Talking about the importance of hygiene, Dr Rahul Chandra, President of the Lucknow Veterinary Association said: "Pets can carry various infectious bacteria and viruses. Owners should always wash or sanitise their hands after touching their pets, and regularly check the animals for any signs of infection." — IANS

All you need to know about...

Toxic traits in partners

Dismissive Attitude:
They're dismissive and quick to disregard your thoughts, emotions, or opinions without engaging in discussion or consideration.

Rigid Gender Roles
They follow and expect you to adhere to strict, outdated gender roles. Look out for remarks like 'Good women don't act like that' or 'That's not a man's job' if you're with someone. Any kind of communication that is offensive to you—or in general—is an immediate big red flag.

Lack of Emotional Expression
Notice if they're consistently avoiding vulnerability or there is no show of emotions. Some people do have difficulty in expressing themselves emotionally but seeing emotions as a weakness is a sign of toxic masculinity.

Disregarding Boundaries
Pay attention to how they handle your personal boundaries. Especially if they consistently push them without consideration, like asking you to do things despite your discomfort, know that it's a red flag. Remember that boundaries, physical and emotional, are important.

Insensitive Jokes
They make jokes that objectify or demean others. This behaviour goes unnoticed most times as they would ask you to be less sensitive or 'lighten up'.

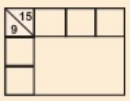
Seriousness of the red flag depends on you
What constitutes a red flag differs from person to person, but you'll most likely know it when you see it, or at least get a weird feeling. If something starts to feel off, pay close attention. It might be difficult to understand but pay attention to whether it's just a one-off toxic trait or a pattern. How you react may change depending on how serious the red flag is.

—Femina

mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

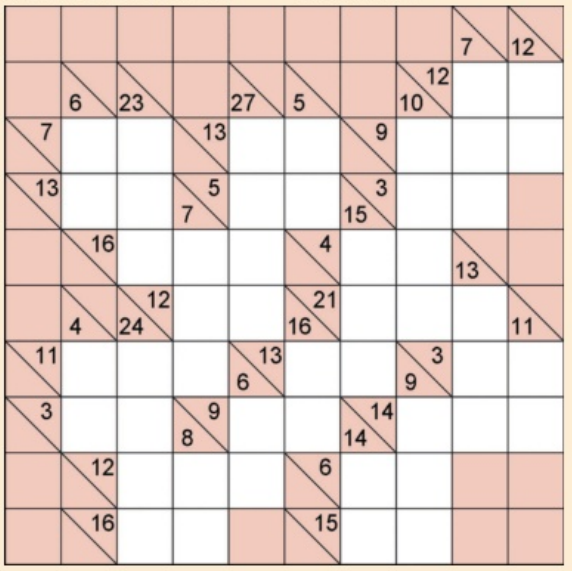
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

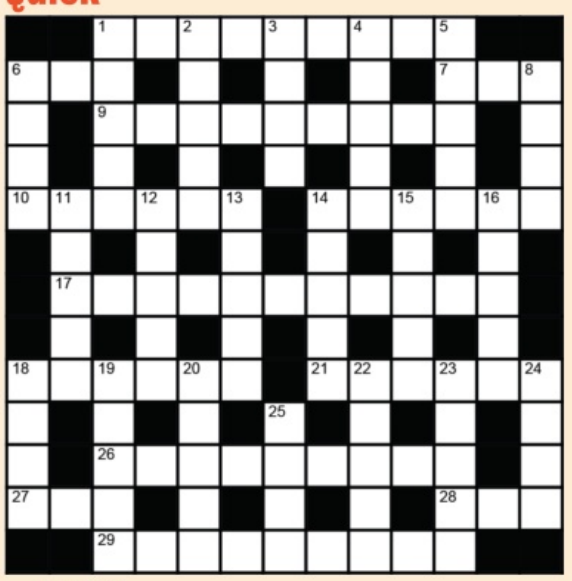


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Confused or bewildered (9)
6 US Civil war side, in short (3)
7 Have debts (3)
9 Ensigns or paragons? (9)
10 Cave (6)
14 Old ___ die hard? (6)
17 Mild quake (5,6)
18 Horse's quarters (6)
21 Back-bones (6)
26 Port city in Karnataka (9)
27 Haw's partner? (3)
28 Pass away (3)
29 Hazardous (9)

DOWN

1 A low pitched singer (5)
2 Lavish repast (5)
3 Extinct bird (4)
4 Insect stage (5)
5 Ex-India left-arm spinner Dilip (5)
6 Wooden-soled shoe (4)
8 Concludes (4)
11 Mr. Butler of Gone With the Wind (5)
12 Pulsate (5)
13 A yellow colour (5)
14 Stringed musical instruments (5)
15 Winsome deer (5)
16 Concise (5)
18 Of like kind (4)
19 Set one's sights on (5)
20 Flaxen cloth (5)
22 Snapshot (5)
23 Requires (5)
24 Annoyed (4)
25 Broad valley (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: X EQUALS T

XJM IBLDX AQNBG SI CSEM BD STL BNZSLQZGM XJQX BX GQZ MEML MZH.

Linemaro

I like your motor control

Mindchow

One positive thought can overturn an army of negative thoughts

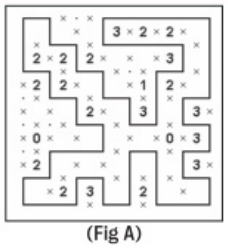
Joke of the day

"My wife's gone to St. Petersburg."
"Is she Russian?"
"No, she's taking her time."

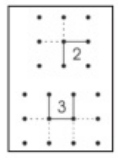
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

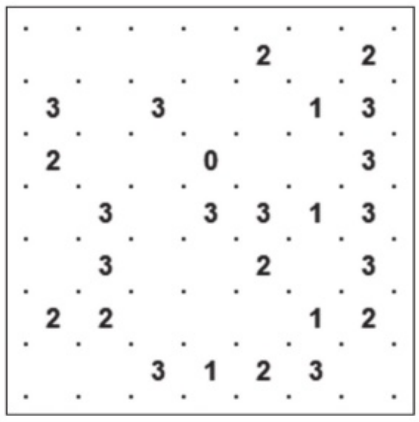


(Fig B) Not Allowed

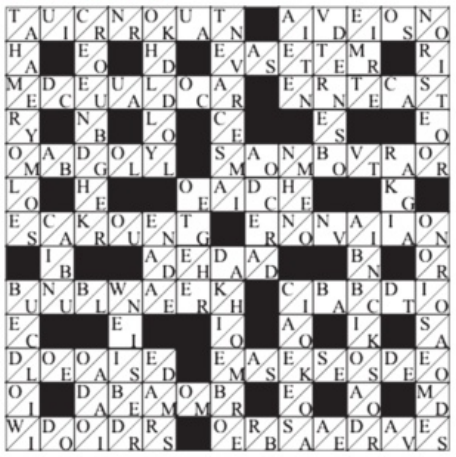
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5 H
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

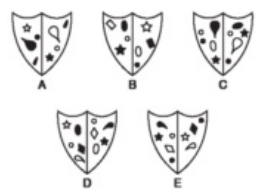
1 S Hals; 6 Hi pop; 7 R rear; 8 Noels; 9 Lawny

DOWN

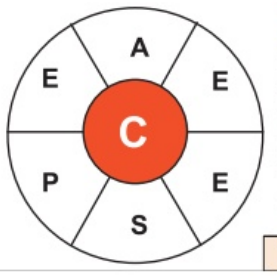
1 Hews R; 2 Lanai; 3 No par; 4 Pells; 5 Or shy

Mensapuzzle

Which shield below has most in common with the shield above?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; 06 Good; 08 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	4	7						
			2				8	3
	2				1		7	9
	5	4		8	3			
		3				6		
			9	6		3	5	
7	1		5				3	
8	3				7			
						2	6	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

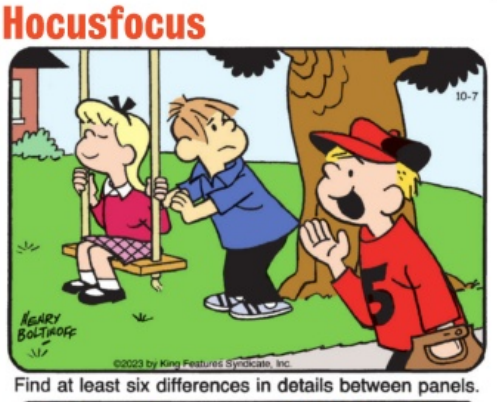
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 25
2 5 9 9

Medium = 32
4 6 6 8

Hard = 2
2 5 6 5

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

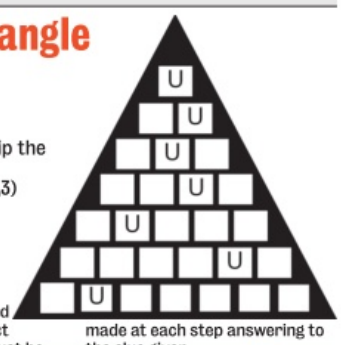
Differences: 1. Cap is different. 2. Girl's arm is not showing. 3. Tree trunk is different. 4. House is wider. 5. Sidewalk is wider. 6. Boy's ear is larger.

Riddler

What does this mean? tree ri_ge tree

Alpha triangle

1 21st letter
2 "Et Brute?"
3 Not home
4 Tipster
5 ___the chase: skip the details (2,3)
6 Play charades (3,3)
7 Pariah



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

HEY, REDEYE!
ISN'T THIS THE SAME SPOT YOU ONCE GOT TRAMPLED BY A HERD OF BUFFALO?!
YES, BUT LIKE THEY SAY-"LIGHTNING NEVER STRIKES THE SAME PLACE TWICE"
9-23
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Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

I got all the camping gear into the car, but we'll have to leave one of the kids behind.
BIZARRO.COM
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Wayno & Piraro 10·7·23

Diamond Lil

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR AFTER HALLOWEEN, GORDY?
TO NOT ROT IN A PUBLIC PLACE
GOOD PLAN
AIM HIGH, THAT'S ME
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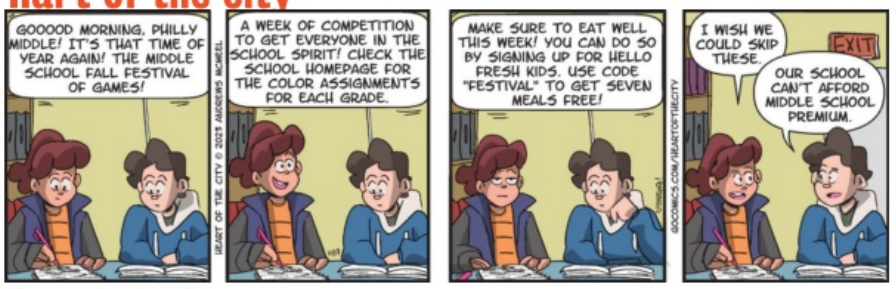
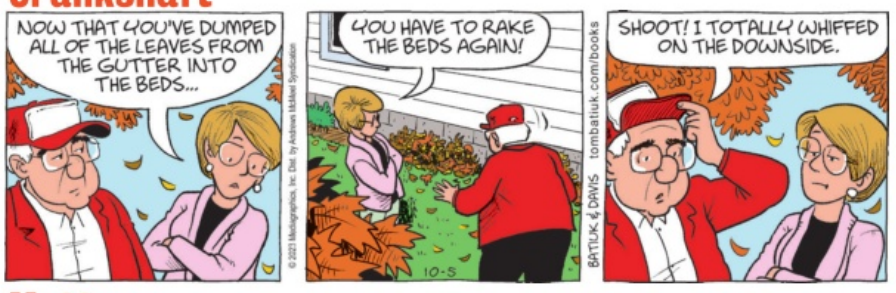
www.creators.com

Hart of the city


GOOOOD MORNING, PHILLY MIDDLE! IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN! THE MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL FESTIVAL OF GAMES!
A WEEK OF COMPETITION TO GET EVERYONE IN THE SCHOOL SPIRIT! CHECK THE SCHOOL HOMEPAGE FOR THE COLOR ASSIGNMENTS FOR EACH GRADE.
MAKE SURE TO EAT WELL THIS WEEK! YOU CAN DO SO BY SIGNING UP FOR HELLO FRESH KIDS. USE CODE "FESTIVAL" TO GET SEVEN MEALS FREE!
I WISH WE COULD SKIP THESE.
EXIT
OUR SCHOOL CAN'T AFFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL PREMIUM.
HART OF THE CITY © 2023 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@DOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


NOW THAT YOU'VE DUMPED ALL OF THE LEAVES FROM THE GUTTER INTO THE BEDS...
YOU HAVE TO RAKE THE BEDS AGAIN!
SHOOT! I TOTALLY WHIFFED ON THE DOWNSIDE.
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
© 2023 Mediagenics, Inc. Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
10-5

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are likely to control your internal weaknesses after analysing yourself. You may feel confident, which can empower you. You might fight against flesh and addictions of any kind. Singles are likely to find a good match, and love birds now have clarity in their relationship. Expect some opportunities for overseas travel. Students will receive good news in terms of academics.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Disputes with siblings may be settled today, boosting your relationship with them. Your vital force seems good, aiding you in completing difficult projects easily. After a short work-related trip, you may expand your network and help a needy person, increasing your social status.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be busy with family and social events, becoming polite with those around you, which can enhance your image among relatives and friends. Spending money on artefacts and other items will improve your social status. You may also hear some good news from a close relative.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, some dissatisfaction may enter your mind, leading to self-exploration that affects the speed of your projects or work with delays. You may waste precious time on worthless tasks, but things may improve somewhat in the late evening.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may escape from reality and struggle with responsibilities. Investments may result in some losses, so carefully read documents before signing. Concerns about elders' health may upset you. Planning to reconstruct your house is advised to be postponed for a while.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, helping needy people may increase your social respect. Putting in a hundred percent effort at work may lead to completing tasks ahead of time. Good news from siblings is likely. Avoid stress, as it can affect both your professional and personal life. Meditation and fasting are advised for today.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may feel tired from overworking at home, leading to laziness and carelessness. Practice patience and consider postponing adventure plans. Past investments may turn into dead stock. Students are advised to work hard, and there may be issues like backache, nervous system problems, liver-related issues, and skin problems.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel better, with situations under control. Your network may assist you at work, and planning for overseas travel is favourable. It's a good time for increased domestic harmony and love life. Creativity may lead to acquiring artefacts for the family, and planning to watch movies or go out with friends or family is encouraged.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may feel dull, losing focus on your targets and making hypothetical decisions beyond reality. Manage expectations, be cautious in adventure tours and rush driving. By afternoon, profits may increase, and working with new clients could boost business in the near future.

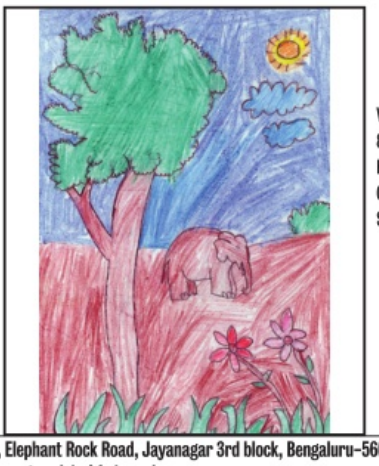
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, your creativity may be high, prompting plans to renovate your house. Buying items for renovation can increase your social status and bring harmony with your spouse. Disputes with friends, co-workers, and partners may be settled, and good news in terms of litigations may be received.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, your creativity may be high as you attend creative events. Recovering money that was stuck is likely. Job seekers are advised to update their knowledge, and students should put more effort into their academics.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be busy with your kids' academics and plan for their higher studies. Couples may hear good news regarding their children. Thinking about updating yourself and planning for higher studies for job promotion is recommended for singles looking for a soul mate.

KIDZONE

Varshitha N, 12 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School



Vivek D R, 8 Years, Kamala Central School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
√(25/100) x 10
√(36/100)
√(1/4) x 10 (6/10)
1/2 x 10 (3/5)
10/2 (3/5)
5 (3/5)
1 (3/1)
3/1 = 3

BULL'S EYE
cape, case, cease, escape, ESCAPEE, pace, peace, space

FAST FIVE

S	L	A	S	H
H	I	P	P	O
R	A	R	E	R
E	N	O	L	S
W	A	N	L	Y

RIDDLER
Partridge in a pear tree

STRIKE OUT

T	U	R	N	O	U	T	A	V	I	O
H	O	D	E	S	T	E	R	I	C	T
E	C	U	A	D	O	R	E	R	C	T
R	N	L	E	S	E	E				
M	A	D	L	Y	S	A	M	O	V	A
G	R	O	T	T	O	H	A	B	I	T
O	S	S	O	V	H	D				
L	S	T	A	N	D	A	R	D	S	N
C	S	A	E	O	A	O	W	E		

QUICK

B	E	F	U	D	D	L	E	D		
D	A	N	G	E	R	O	U	S		
H	E	E	E	L	T	D	I	E		
C	M	A	N	G	A	L	O	R	E	R
U	I	I	D	H	E	O				
S	T	A	B	L	E	S	P	I	N	E
T	O	R	P	B	S					
E	A	R	T	H	T	R	E	M	O	R
H	H	C	A	A	E					
G	R	O	T	T	O	H	A	B	I	T
S										

MENSA PUZZLE
B: the left side contains the same symbols as the right side but with black/white reversal

QUOTE UNCODE
The first magic of love is our ignorance that it can ever end.

SUDOKU

5	4	7	8	3	9	1	2	6
1	6	9	2	7	5	4	8	3
3	2	8	6	4	1	5	7	9
6	5	4	1	8	3	7	9	2
9	8	3	7	5	2	6	4	1
2	7	1	9	6	4	3	5	8
7	1	2	5	9	6	8	3	4
8	3	6	4	2	7	9	1	5
4	9	5	3	1	8	2	6	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, Tu, Out, Tout, Qu tto, Act out, Outcast.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 + 5 + 9 + 2 = 25
Medium
6 x 6 - 8 + 4 = 32
Hard
5 - 2 + 5 - 6 = 2

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 16, Issue No 132 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

Chris, Elsa much in love— Hollywood star Chris Hemsworth and his wife Elsa Pataky have shared a loved-up festive photo dump. These pictures come even as unkind rumours about their marriage continue to swirl

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@BangaloreMirror
Entertainment Industry Promotion

NYE PLANS

What Mouni's idea of a party is

Actress Mouni Roy has chosen the serene confines of her Dubai residence for a heartwarming celebration alongside her beloved husband, Suraj.

The couple aims to bask in each other's company, sharing cherished moments while indulging in the simple joys of life.

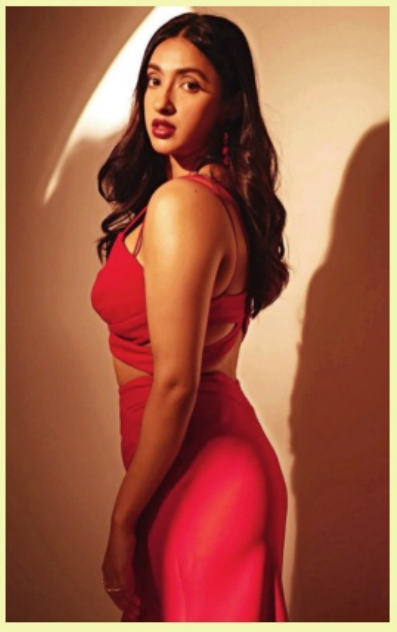
Mouni recently used her Instagram handle to give fans a peek at her preparations, adding a little personal flair to her celebrations. The actress was seen in a film showcasing her passion for cooking and her skill at creating delicious home-cooked meals. The video was visually appealing. The video highlighted the spirit of the New Year in her love, thankfulness, and treasured memories.

Mouni and Suraj's choice to place more importance on their relationship speaks for itself and speaks volumes about their partnership. For the actress, nevertheless, the day holds a hint of excitement. Mouni takes some time to enjoy the bright vibrancy of Dubai's beach vibes before their peaceful evening. She's gearing up to hang out at an upscale beach club with her dear buddies. It is expected to be the ideal balance of celebration and leisure, enabling Mouni to welcome the New Year with a cheerful attitude.

It serves as a reminder that the most meaningful pleasures may frequently be found in the most straightforward circumstances. Mouni New Year's Eve plans serve as a heartwarming testament to the enduring power of love and togetherness. —ETimes

Akansha ready for debut

Actress Akansha Ranjan Kapoor, who is known for 'Guilty', 'Ray' and 'Monica, Oh My Darling', has started shooting for her Telugu film



'MaayaOne' in Hyderabad.

The film marks her debut in Telugu cinema and also stars Sundeep Kishan. The film is directed by CV Kumar, who is known for films like 'Iraivi', 'Kadhalum Kadandhu Pogum', 'Soodhu Kavvum' and 'Pizza'.

Akansha said: "I reached Hyderabad one week before the shoot began, to prepare for the film and to also understand the team. Everyone has been extremely humble and sweet. CV Sir and Sundeep have been extremely supportive; it feels like the entire crew is a family."

"Since it's my debut film in the Telugu language, I want to give my best. I have started learning Telugu with the help of a tutor. I am hoping to also dub my own lines; it will be a personal victory." —IANS

In one word

Actress Ananya Panday, whose streaming film 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan' released on Tuesday, shared an interesting incident when she received a one word text from the Internet's favourite Jackie Shroff.

During a podcast with comic artistes Rohan Joshi and Tanmay Bhat, Ananya, who appeared with her 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan' co-actors Siddhant Chaturvedi and Adarsh Gourav, said, "Can I tell what happened with me about Jackie sir? He just randomly texted me saying 'Bhidu'. I asked him, 'yes sir?' and he didn't reply." Rohan interjected as he said, "That's the Indian version of getting a knighthood."

Ananya added, "Then I met him a few days later at a screening or some event. I said, 'Sir, you just sent me Bhidu and you didn't reply, what's up?'. He said, 'I just wanted to tell you ki main hoon (I am here)'." The room burst out laughing as Tanmay said, "Dude! What an honour." —IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Outright fun

The latest movie with a quirky title is Online Madhuve Offline Shobana. The movie revolves around youngsters addicted to social media. The movie's trailer and two songs were screened at SRV Theater on Monday.

It is bankrolled and helmed by Vempalli Bavaji under the Apsara Movies banner. "The movie revolves around a couple who got married online. It is a hilarious flick that will make the audience happy. All the characters are funny from the very beginning to the end. I want to offer a cash prize for those among the audience who are not amused by this film," said director Vempalli Bavaji.

Jagappa and Sushmitha, who are known for their performances on small screen, play the lead pair. According to Sushmita, the director first decided not to have songs but later added them. "It is a simple movie aimed at making audiences happy," Sushmita said.

Real horror

Actors of horror movies are expected to frighten audiences, but here is a case where actors themselves were frightened while facing the camera. The cast and crew of the movie Aatma Thallana (meaning troubled soul) faced a lot of problems during the shooting. Some actors said they had peculiar experiences during a shoot at a burial ground near Srirangapatna.

"The shooting of the movie began three years ago. We faced a lot of problems during the shooting in Mysuru and Gopalapura and other locations for 40 days. The script is based on a few real life incidents. It is about a woman who is raped and killed and how the woman's soul takes revenge," said director Krishnappa.

Adikesavalu Reddy debuts as a hero in Sandalwood with this movie. "I am from Mulabagal and am now residing in Bengaluru. My passion towards theater and movies made me get basic training in theater at Rangashankara and do a diploma course in acting at Tent Cinema. I was afraid while facing the camera during the shooting of this movie at a burial ground near Srirangapatna. The director and producer selected me to play the lead after watching my Tamil movie Jithan 2," said Adikesavalu.